



GRACE BRIEF #1

Empowerment Evaluation

Within the GRACE project, six partner organisations developed a set of grounding actions to implement RRI institutional change.

The process and the impact of these actions were continuously assessed through a specific Evaluation Scheme divided into two parts:

✓ Process evaluation:

- evaluating the implementation of the grounding actions throughout the project
- identifying enablers and obstacles of RRI initiatives

✓ Impact assessment:

- assessing the effects of the grounding actions on the implementing organisations and their long-term impact

Empowerment Evaluation

The scheme developed within GRACE is based on Empowerment Evaluation principles, a participatory and collaborative approach designed to help programme participants improve their practices by conducting their own evidence-based evaluation in an ongoing process. In this scheme, the implementing organisation takes an active role in the evaluation process.

“Empowerment Evaluation aims to increase the likelihood that programs will achieve results by increasing the capacity of program stakeholders to plan, implement, and evaluate their own programs”
Wandersman et al



The principles of Empowerment Evaluation are in line with the general idea of RRI and Open Science, Open Innovation, and Open to the world, as well as the co-creation objective of the GRACE project. The purpose is not only to assess the worth and value of the set of actions, but to learn along the way through self-evaluation and reflection.

A joint effort between implementing partners and evaluators

The GRACE Evaluation Scheme is organised in three phases:

1. Stocktaking and planning phase
 - Identifying strengths/weaknesses
 - Setting specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound goals
2. Implementation phase
 - evaluating the actions through follow-up meetings or mini-interviews
3. Final assessment phase
 - collecting data

The purpose of involving the implementing partners to such an extent - particularly in the stock-taking and planning phase - is to help them to adapt the evaluation to their grounding actions and context in a meaningful way. It also makes the evaluation more feasible, when implementing organisations collect some of the data, as the evaluation team cannot be present at the implementation sites all the time and thus depend on some degree of de-centralized data collection.

The evaluation team's task is to support the implementing organisations in their evaluation efforts along the way with regular evaluation follow-up meetings. The evaluation team will take an active part in the work of specifying success criteria, relevant indicators, and particular methods for measuring these. The evaluation team will offer both training and practical assistance with data collection, e.g. training in survey design and distribution, training in interview-techniques etc. The regular evaluation follow-up meetings will also be used to do mini-interviews for the process-narratives.

Reproducing the Evaluation Scheme

The added value of this scheme is that it minimises external control and can be applied to different types of actions as well as geographical-, institutional-, cultural-, political-, and economic contexts

